Basic Needs

**iFoster Online Resource Portal**
Foster youth, foster families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics. Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a foster youth, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit [iFoster.org](http://iFoster.org) to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837. If you don’t have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone!

**James Storehouse**
James Storehouse is a nonprofit that secures donations for resource families/foster and relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care. Items include furniture, clothing from newborn to teen, toys, diapers, and all baby/child gear including cribs and car seats. James Storehouse also hosts events throughout the year to support children and teens in care. Offices and warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM or by appointment. Clients are welcome to drop by or schedule an appointment (preferred) by emailing jamesstorehouse@gmail.com. Their phone number is 805-499-7161. Se habla Español.
They are located at 3541 Old Conejo Rd #117, Newbury Park 91320.

**Rachael’s Closet**
Rachael’s Closet is available to help you on your journey as a foster, relative, kinship, or resource care provider by providing assistance with Co-Parenting, Visitation, & Playroom, Peer Mentorship, Guidance, & Support, Small Group Networking, Training, and Education, New and Gently Used Clothing, Car Seats, Strollers, Cribs & Other Things and Care Bags. To Schedule An Appointment, contact Lisa Carlson-Pugh at 805.285.3790 or email: Lisa@VCFPA.com

**Child Hope Services**
Child Hope Services, Inc is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting! Child Hope Services provides a new placement Hope Chest that contains items needed for the first week of placement. Please visit [www.childhopeservices.org](http://www.childhopeservices.org) and complete an application to be considered for support. Child Hope Services can also be contacted at 805-419-6182 or info@childhopeservices.org.
Children’s Services Auxiliary
The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit www.csavc.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be downloaded from www.csavc.org/reimbursement-procedures.html, www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.
To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org.
**Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

Heart-to-Heart
Heart-to-Heart, in partnership with Kids & Families Together, donates gently used items to resource families, foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. To receive Heart-to-Heart resources, please contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446.

Defending the Fatherless
Defending the Fatherless is a ministry based group that partners with churches throughout Ventura County. We work to support and equip foster and adoptive families through family events, networking, and support groups. We provide a love closet for families and will bring you items upon placement, we also provide meals and peer mentors throughout your journey through foster care. Our love closet carries clothing up to 5T, infant care items, cribs, strollers, and other care related items. Contact them at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
WIC is a health and nutritional program for pregnant women and children under the age of 5. Fostering or relative care giving families are eligible to receive WIC for children in their care. WIC provides nutritional education and supplemental foods. Contact 1-800-781-4449 ext. 3 or wic.program@ventura.org for more information.

Catalyst
Catalyst Church has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Foster parents can come and collect as needed for their new foster child. Please call Amy Freehauf to set up a time to come by. 805-766-1916
Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula
Open Hands Ministry
South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm. To set up your first appointment, contact Larry Nordyke at 805-658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter Street, Ventura

Shelter Care Resources
Shelter Care Resources provides materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes, car seats and furniture to resource families. Email ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information. Oxnard area.

Women of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH)
WOS&MOH, Inc. addresses the needs of guidance and support for at-risk youth by providing rehabilitation & restoration services, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, Leadership mentoring courses and scholarships and items including hygiene products, and food and clothing vouchers. Transitional foster care youth & Probation youth are provided with Christmas Gift Bags, Transitional and after care support, a Community Nest, Transitional Housing and referrals for support. Email helpingyouth@wosmoh.org

RaisingHOPE, INC
RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to abused and neglected children, many of whom are or were in the foster care system, in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring and legal services. RaisingHOPE is the organization that plans and executes the annual HOPE4Kids Festival & Run each spring. Funds from this event go directly to helping children in foster care or recently transitioned out of foster care with payment for extracurricular activities, orthodontia, textbooks for college and anything that might benefit the youth. For more information on RaisingHOPE, to donate, request a mentor or resource assistance please visit www.raisinghope.org or contact info@raisinghope.org. You can also call 805-491-KIDZ (5439).

ACTION: ACTION is a Ventura County nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers, churches, and businesses to volunteer and help people. By matching up volunteers with needs, our volunteers find ways to help that fits their abilities and resources while those in need benefit. Through this Serve Every Day program, a wide range of help can potentially be provided. Possibilities include basic household repairs, help with yard work, helping a family move or supplying basic household goods/appliances for those that can’t afford them. For more information, please call 805-987-0300 or email action@actionvc.org.
Extracurricular Activities/Enrichment Supports

Children's Services Auxiliary
The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit www.csavc.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be downloaded from www.csavc.org/reimbursement-procedures.html, www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.
To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org. **Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

YMCA
The YMCA is committed to being socially responsible. Through Operation Ventura, an outreach initiative, and the generous support of our donors, the Y has been able to provide free programming and membership to homeless and foster youth and families. Participation in swim programs and youth sports allows the underprivileged children in our community an opportunity to participate. These programs range from swim, to dance, to sports, to drama and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Foster VC Kids for distribution to Foster Parents on a first come, first serve basis. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext 17.

Mentoring

CASA of Ventura County
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Ventura County believes that every court-dependent abused or neglected child should be safe, have permanence and the opportunity to thrive, and have a strong, compassionate volunteer advocate. CASA recruits, screens, trains, supervises and support volunteers who advocate for foster children appointed by the Juvenile Dependency Court to the CASA program. The CASA Advocate is the person who can be counted on to respond to those most basic needs for reassurance, guidance, comfort, representation and advocacy in times of extreme uncertainty, and is the one constant, positive presence in the child’s life until a permanent placement can be secured. www.casaofventuracounty.org
Faith in Motion

Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and Ventura County faith communities. Faith communities throughout the county are stepping in to provide a range of support to our fostering families. Families can be connected to a fostering ministry or social program at a congregation within their community. Faith in Motion partners can provide emotional and practical support to caregivers, basic need goods, respite care support, and special holiday events. To be connected with a Faith in Motion congregation in your area, please contact fostervckids@ventura.org. Visit www.fostervckids.org/faith-in-motion/ for more information, to get your congregation involved, or to be connected with a Faith in Motion partner!

Respite Care

Channel Islands Social Services
County licensed foster parents, relative caregivers, and resource families are eligible for up to 12 hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for children ages 12 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact Channel Islands Social Services directly at 805-384-0983 to register. If your family is caring for children over 12 or requires more than 12 hours, social workers can request an exception to the basic eligibility. These cases will be reviewed for need, natural support system, and plan for when the short term exception ends. FFA certified homes are eligible for 6 hours of respite, though they are not eligible for exceptions.

Child Care/Child Development

Child Development Resources
Child Development Resources administers a range of childcare programs and provides referrals to community child care providers. Foster children may receive priority assignment from the wait list and subsidies with verification from their social worker that the child is a court dependent minor. In order to apply, foster parents should complete the following steps:
1. Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded here: www.childdevelopmentresources.org/PDFLibrary/CDRCELAPPLICATIONJuly2011ENG.pdf
2. Foster VC Kids will provide a letter of verification of the child’s dependent status. Please email HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to request this verification.
3. Submit application and letter directly to CDR.
Easter Seals
The Easter Seals Child Development Center serves children ages 2-5. Foster children typically qualify for very low or no cost services. Preschool scheduling is dependent on the family’s work or school schedule and will be determined at the time of application. Easter Seals also offers a part time program for children preparing for kindergarten! Contact Easter Seals at 805-647-1141 ext. 11 for more information or to apply!

Child Development Centers
Child Development Inc. operates early care and education that serve children birth through twelve years of age. They offer a variety of infant, preschool and school age programs. They work with school districts to provide before and after school programs, including homework assistance and kindergarten readiness programs to families. CDC also provides preschool programs in Oxnard, Fillmore, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, & Port Hueneme. Foster children are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Call 805- 483-6756 or visit www.cdicdc.org/programs. Contact HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org if you require verification of the child's involvement in foster care.

Children’s Home Society (CHS)
Children’s Home Society provides a variety of services to children and families in California and nationwide — working to improve their quality of life by offering vital informational, educational, and resource services, which include Community Education Services, Child Care and Development Services, and Family Resource Services. Along with helping children and their families, CHS is an expert resource for child care providers, other social service agencies, and government agencies at the local, state, and national level. Foster children are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Visit http://www.chs-ca.org/ or call 805-437-1910 for more information. Contact HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org if you require verification of the child's involvement in foster care.

Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL)
First 5 Ventura County has multiple NFL sites that offer parenting support, early literacy activities, and case management for families with children that are 0-5. For more information, go online: www.first5ventura.org/resources-for-families/interactive-nfl-map

Training
Caregivers are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of continuing education each year. Foster VC Kids encourages a blend of online, in-person, and networking groups to receive these hours. Please retain copies of certificates of completion. To receive credit self-study training, visit www.fostervckids.org or call 654-3220 to obtain the required form.

**Foster & Kinship Care Education**

The Foster & Kinship Care Education program through the Community College District offers ongoing education and training opportunities to caregivers. FKCE sends email to caregivers with class updates. For more information, contact Rhonda Carlson at 805-289-6327 or rcarlson@vcccd.edu or Debbie Flowers at DebbieFlowers@vcccd.edu.

**Kids and Families Together Training and Support Groups:** K&FT hosts drop in groups for caregivers to explore a range of topics relevant to foster and adoptive care. Topics include dealing with difficult behaviors, trauma, brain and dysregulation, attachment, therapeutic parenting, playfulness, and co-parenting. Groups are free to caregivers. Call Kids and Families Together at 643-1446 for upcoming dates.

**Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA):** The VCFPA offers a range of training opportunities at their bi-monthly membership meetings. Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers are all welcome to attend. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit http://www.vcfpa.com/ or view their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/vcfpa/.

**Online Training**

- California’s Just in Time Training www.QPIcalifornia.org
- Foster Training www.foster-training.com
- Cenpatico U www.cenpaticoU.com
- Foster Care & Adoptive Community www.fosterparents.com
- Foster Parent College www.fosterparentcollege.com
- Foster Club www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

**Educational Sites**

- National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers
- Zero to Three www.zerotothree.org
- The Institute for Safe Families www.instituteforsafefamilies.org/materials/amazing-brain
- Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html
- Healthy Children www.healthychildren.org
Youth Education

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program: FYSCP works in collaboration with foster liaisons in each district in the county to ensure that the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of foster youth are identified, to determine gaps in educational and social support services and provide those services, directly or through referrals to collaborative partners. The program also seeks to facilitate the completion and timely transfer of school records, improve students’ academic achievement, reduce truancy, dropout rates and delinquent behavior, and provide advocacy to promote the best interest of foster youths throughout the county. Contact the Foster Youth Services Program at 805-437-1525 fys@vcoe.org

Kids Alliance: For information about a foster child's educational rights, please visit www.kids-alliance.org/programs/education/education-rights-of-foster-youth

Children’s Services Auxiliary
The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please visit www.csavc.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be downloaded from www.csavc.org/reimbursement-procedures.html, www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.
To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org.
**Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

California College Pathways: Foster youth educational planning website with resources and program information to help youth succeed in college. www.cacollegepathways.org
Access the Planning Guide at this link: Foster Youth Educational Planning Guide

Note: If you have concerns about your child's academic performance, behavior in the school setting, or overall development, please contact the child's social worker immediately. Please note that children that are 0-5 are eligible for educational and developmental support programs depending on their needs.

Tutoring

Project Understanding Tutoring Centers
Tutoring Centers provide extra instruction for students grades K-5 with volunteer tutors in one-to-one interaction. Project Understanding currently has 11 tutoring centers throughout Ventura County, in El Rio, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Saticoy and Ventura. Free for all students. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220 for referral sheets and instructions. Sometimes students may have to be on a waiting list due to space limitations. For more information, visit [www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring-centers/](http://www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring-centers/) or contact Maria Gonzalez, Program Manager – 805-652-1326, ext 303

**Eureka! Tutoring**
Free tutoring for foster youth in all subject areas, kindergarten through college. Embracing the Whole Child Foundation sponsors educational assistance. One-on-one tutoring available through in-home webinars. To schedule a tutoring session, go to: [www.ewcata.com](http://www.ewcata.com)

### Scholarships

**Joan Gendreau and Fostering the Future Scholarships**
Children's Services Auxiliary recognizes the need and awards scholarships to Court Dependent graduating high school students or GED equivalent who are applying to at least one of the following: Vocational/Trade School, Community College, 4-year College and/or applying to the Military after high school or GED completion. One on-line application applies for both scholarships. For more information visit: [www.fosteringthefuture.net/](http://www.fosteringthefuture.net/) or contact Leeann Mesa via email or 805-217-6187.

### Medical, Mental & Behavioral Health

**Foster Health Link:** This "electronic health backpack" is a website and mobile app that provides caregivers with health information about the children in their care. Also available through Foster Health Link is the Network of Care; this is a searchable-online database that provides information about medical conditions, medication, mental health, and local services providers. Caregivers will be able to access the current Health Education Passport (HEP) for children in their care in an electronic format by logging onto Foster Health Link from their computers or smart devices. Training on how to use Foster Health Link is available on our website, [www.fostervckids.org](http://www.fostervckids.org). Caregivers will need an email address to be able to access the portal. Please also remember to send an email to fostervckids@ventura.org so we can add your email to the database!
CFS Eligibility Unit: For questions about your child’s Medi-cal/Gold Coast Health Care Plan benefits, you can contact the officer of the day in the Eligibility unit at 805-654-3444.

Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care: Public health nurses provide education and coordination to medical, dental, developmental, and mental health care needs to Ventura County children in out-of-home placement. They work closely with foster parents, social workers, probation officers and others to prevent illness and provide well child care. You can reach a nurse at 805-240-2700

Rx for Kids: Rx for Kids provides unique and innovative Public Health child abuse intervention services. Working with Children and Family Services, our Public Health nurses work in all areas of child protection from investigation, court unit, drug court, family maintenance, and family re-unification through emancipation. They provide medical care coordination and advocacy for children in Child Protective Services. They give children comprehensive in-home nursing assessments, substance exposure screenings, and developmental screenings. They use evidence-based, valid, and reliable screening tools. They also refer children to resources as needed. They conduct specialized in-home visits to children with complex health conditions. We educate biological and foster parents to support the child’s optimal growth and development. They can be contacted at 805-289-9308.

Mental Health Services: If you have concerns about your child’s emotional health or behavior, and believe he/she may benefit from a mental health assessment, please speak to the child’s social worker immediately. Your child will be screened and may be referred to be assessed and treated through Ventura County’s Behavioral Health Child Welfare Subsystem Program and contract providers.

National Institute of Mental Health: Online information about child & adolescent mental health can be found at www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/child-and-adolescent-mental-health/index.shtml

Independent Living Program and AB12

Caregivers of children ages 16-21 can visit www.fostervckids.org/tay to access information about Ventura County’s Youth Services Division, Independent Living Program, and AB12 services.

In-home Support Programs

Support & Education Program (SET): In home services for foster parents or relative caregivers who have children with trauma histories in their homes, are struggling with behavioral challenges, or need support and training in connecting with the child. Contact the Foster VC Kids team or your assigned
Community Services Coordinator at 805-654-3220 or HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org for more info or to be referred. **Families must be referred by staff to this program.**

**Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program:** Channel Islands Social Services provides PPEs (mentors) to new Resource Families/foster parents. All foster parents are matched to a mentor when they become a resource family. Contact edith@islandsocialservices.org or visit www.islandsocialservices.org/families/ppe-program for more information.

**KSSP Support Groups & Kinship PPE Programs:** Support for Resource Families/Relative Caregivers. Contact jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org for more information.

**Hair Whisperers:** CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Foster VC Kids at HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org or 805-654-3220 to request a referral. Families must be referred by Foster VC Kids/CFS Staff.

**Networking & Support Groups**

**Foster Parent Networking** provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook and visit www.fostervckids.org to view the most current information on events! *Please note that meetings are subject to change*

**Simi Valley:** Provided through the Ventura and Oxnard FKCE programs and meets the 2nd Friday of the Month at Cornerstone Church. Contact for rcarlson@vcccd.edu or DebbieFlowers@vcccd.edu for more information.

**Ventura:** Foster VC Kids hosts monthly evening networking on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

**Spanish:** Foster VC Kids hosts meetings the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

**Camarillo:** Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email defendingthefatheless.info@gmail.com or go to www.defendingthefatherless.net for more info.
**Educational:** Kids and Families Together hosts a support group on a range of topics provided in a safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their therapeutic parenting skills. Groups meet periodically. Contact Karina at 805-643-1446, ext. 118 for the latest information.

**Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA):** The VCFPA offers support, training and resources to Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers. They hold monthly membership meetings bi-monthly. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit [http://www.vcfpa.com/](http://www.vcfpa.com/).

**For Relative Care Givers**

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. **No RSVP needed- Walk-ins welcome!** Training hour certificates provided upon request. For further information, email [kssp@kidsandfamilies.org](mailto:kssp@kidsandfamilies.org)

**Sponsors:** Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE and Kids & Families Together

**Camarillo:** last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm at 5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo, Channel Island Social Services

**Oxnard:** (Spanish) 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6-8:00pm at 910 S. E St., Driffil Elementary School

**Santa Paula:** (Bilingual) 2nd Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at 214 10th Street, First 5 Neighborhood for Learning

**Simi Valley:** 3rd Wednesday, 6-8pm at 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center

**Ventura:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6-8pm at 856 E. Thompson Blvd, Kids & Families Together Center

**Thousand Oaks:** 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm at 401 Hodencamp Rd., Senior Concerns

**Ojai:** 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm at 105 E. Topa Topa St., Ojai Valley Wesleyan Church

**Licensing & RFA Information**

**Community Care Licensing:** Visit the CCL website to read Title 22 regulations for foster homes, as well as download forms such as the Unusual Incident Form [www.ccll.ca.gov](http://www.ccll.ca.gov)
Resource Family Approval: Visit the CDSS website to learn more about the RFA approval process and to review the Written Directives. [www.childworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm](http://www.childworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm)


**Important Phone Numbers**

Visit [http://fostervckids.org/contact-us/](http://fostervckids.org/contact-us/) to access staff directions.

- Recruitment, Development, & Support Info: 654-3220
- RDS Manager: 654-5594
- Licensing: 654-3405
- Resource Family Approval (RFA): 654-3405
- Relative Approval: 654-3405
- Placement: 289-1900
- Eligibility Officer of the Day: 654-3444
- Adoptions: 240-2700
- Youth Services Division: 240-2700
- Rx for Kids Public Health Program: 654-7620

Foster Care Nurse: 654-5536
Child Abuse Hotline: 654-3200
General Information Emergency Response & Court Units: 654-3444
General Information Ongoing Units: 240-2700
General Information East County: 955-2290
General Information Family Collaboration and Support: 654-3405
CSA Reimbursements: 654-3220
Field Based Case Aids: 654-3444
ILP Coordinators: 240-2700